

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 6, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 6, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for conducting the interview on February 18, 2004, regarding the species restriction of Figs. 3-5 and Figs. 6-8. During the interview, it was determined that Figs. 3-5 and Figs. 6-8 can be combined into a single species.

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application and are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Group 1 – The species of Figs. 1-2.

Group 2 – The species of Figs. 3-5 and Figs. 6-8.

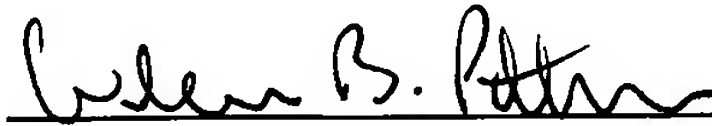
Group 3 – The species of Fig. 9.

Applicants provisionally elect Group 2, the Species of Figures 3-5 and Figs. 6-8, without traverse. Applicants believe claims 1-39, 41, 46, and 47 read on Group 2.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



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